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They are both constantly on the point of tears. HLRP to S.R.P.: "we've had enough suffering in this family to carry us for two hundred years. [Pause]. What I want to know is, what caused it. Who did he get it from?" Us to the group: "Don't give up, boy. Don't give up." we were all just about crying at that point. At that point, S.R.P. remarked: "Yes, where there's life, there's hope. One thing has to be fought with every cell in your body. The ball game is not over by a long shot."

Incredibly, we managed to have a largely normal Thanksgiving meal -- in many many respects it was just like usual. HLRP wondering if we all had enough to eat and of course we we all practically falling off the chair from over-eating; Cousin Peg and William discovered each other today -- they fooled around much of the day and were very much entertained by each other. Anna, April & William are really good kids: each quite wonderful in his or her own way. After dinner was over, and we had all rested a bit and did the dishes, Peg & William & April & S.R.P. took a walk down to RTP to see that April & William could "fix the critter" -- feed the 3 horses & half dozen or so sheep & the peacock & pheasants. On the way down, I took three photographs: April, Wm., and Peg/April/William. Perhaps I can have the prints made into Christmas presents for the 3 of them.

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The Ecumenical service committee was wonderful. I was in my usual pew & when Joe Pascare came in he called out my name & I went & sat with him & Mason Essig & his mother. The spirit of cooperation & optimism & harmony & good cheer that emerged from the service was truly extraordinary. Both Bartholomay and Starger are going to retire this year and Monsignor Horan made a very touching tribute to both of them; Pullic and Horan are buddies. The harmony among the members of the ministerium is extraordinary, especially in light of the religious war/battle that used to characterize Carbondale life very often. Monsignor Horan is a very engaging man & a really well-versed man in the pulpit. Very funny & very serious, alternately. WDAK-Channel 22 was present and I knew that I would be on the Evening News -- as I was (6 P.M.). We all watched and there I was for about 3 seconds. I wonder if anyone I know, besides members of the family, saw and recognized S.R.P.

Tried to telephone DWP several times today from the Golf course. No luck. Will try again after 11PM, when ^{the} 60% reduction in rates goes into effect. Today HLRP remarked to me at one point: "I wonder if Don's having turkey today?" Peg also asked ^{me} at one point: "Don's not coming?" That was that.

Very cold today and tonight: in the teens. Deer hunting season begins on Monday -- schools closed.